

Exhibit A

Exhibit A

From: Andrew Taylor <Dustin_Taylor@ncwd.uscourts.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:58 PM
To: Jason M. Sneed; Jackson, David A.; Johnson, Aaron D.; Woller, Joy; Haug, Ed; Colletti, Robert; Basanta, Mark; Joshua B. Durham
Cc: Hillary Stroud
Subject: FW: CMT USA, Inc. and CMT Utenseli S.p.A. v. Apex Tool Group LLC and Apex Brands, Inc.; Case No. 3:24-CV-137-RJC-DCK

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Counsel:

Thank you for reaching out to chambers regarding the status of this case. My understanding is that the case will be reassigned to a new presiding District Judge at a later date and that in the meantime Judge Keesler will continue to manage the case.

To the extent the parties are concerned about trial preparations and other deadlines, the parties may file a motion to continue the trial and/or stay deadlines pending resolution of the motions for summary judgment.

Also, I realize there is a motion to compel that is still pending. (Document No. 114). Please let me know if that dispute has been resolved or narrowed; if not, we'll try to get to it soon.

Best regards,
Dustin

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From: Joshua B. Durham <JDurham@belldavispitt.com>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 10:48 AM
To: judge_keesler_chamber <keesler_chamber@ncwd.uscourts.gov>
Cc: Jason M. Sneed <jsneed@sneedlegal.com>; Jackson, David A. <djackson@lewisroca.com>; Johnson, Aaron D. <adjohnson@lewisroca.com>; Woller, Joy <joy.woller@wbd-us.com>; Haug, Ed <ehaug@haugpartners.com>; Colletti, Robert <rcolletti@haugpartners.com>; Basanta, Mark <mbasanta@haugpartners.com>
Subject: CMT USA, Inc. and CMT Utenseli S.p.A. v. Apex Tool Group LLC and Apex Brands, Inc.; Case No. 3:24-CV-00137-RJC-DCK

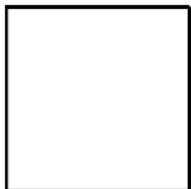
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Judge Keesler –

Regarding Judge Conrad's recent retirement, we have been informed that a notice of stay and notice of reassignment was issued in at least one of his other cases. As the Court is aware, there are, in this case, various pending motions, including cross-motions for summary judgment. The case is also set for trial in September. As our client representatives are in Italy and travel for them presents a few more complexities than those faced by local witnesses, we are inquiring into what Judge Conrad's retirement may mean, if anything, for the scheduling of this action.

Thank you for your consideration of this inquiry and any insight the Court is inclined to share.

Josh Durham



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